

HOUGH FAMILY LETTERS

1877

Is the climate good for lung troubles?

Des Moines, Ia. Apr. 21. 1877.

Dear Sister Em.:-

My physicion has been urging me to go south for my health. Today she spoke of California. I said "will it be as well for me to go there as south & she says yes" She says now lay your plans to go just as soon as you have earned money enough. So if I am prosperd I shall try and leave here the last of Sept. or the first of Oct. I am making engagements to do Institute work during July, Aug & Sept. I shall use the time until the last of June getting rested & ready for my work.

Excuse haste the Dr. wanted I should write while I was in the spirit for it.

Much love from your affectionate sister,

Carrie

Lake Co Cal. J

Dear Daughter-,

I write to ask you I am to do about here. P.M. says "if w let him take the & improvement he give up the cattle & and give a receipt wants your sanction the same before he do it. I thought it best, then he can no more hereafter. sell three cows for dollars. If you thin Please let me know soon as possible. If

MILKERS FALLS
ERASER
COTTON CONTENT

Hough's Springs, June 10 1877

Dear George, I received your letter of May 13, in due time, and was glad to hear that you were all well. I am well, but tired. It is very warm up here, the heat, and hard work is most to much for me. Mr. Myers is so he works a little, but is not well. Your father is well now but he was quite unwell for awhile. He has been hauling the hay, he cut the hay too, he is now at work on the bathhouse with Myers, and Williams. There has been nothing done on it till last week. If P M keeps well enough to work it will not take long to finish it. Our cabins are empty now but we are expecting one or two to be taken soon. Mr. Bishop left last Thursday He was here five weeks--he gained twelve lbs while here He had the first cabin below the house. He had his boy with him. He would have stayed longer if it had not been for his horses--it cost to much to feed them in stable and he could not get pasture for them. He said "he was glad to come and sorry to go" There was seven persons in the lower cabin, a week--they did not come for their health. Two of Alexander's teamsters were here to dinner one day last week, and one night one of the same stoped here over night with a four horse team. Two other men with teams stoped here the same night. About a week ago Mr Epperson, Charlie, Mary and a stranger was here to dinner. Charlie stayed till the next day, when his father came back from Bartletts. Last night Mr Bristol and Claudio Stanton stayed here. They were driving some hogs home--it was nearly dark when they got here. I got supper for them. We have got

two calves now, we killed one, and one we are raising. The one that was at Stanton's, is so poor it is not fit to kill yet, when it gets fat we intend to kill it--it has been knocked in head with the milk pail. We got it home three days ago. Pup and lamb are growing nicely. The pup is as full of mischief as is possible for a pup to be. She drags, or carries off almost every thing she can get hold of--yesterday I laid a bucher knife down on the steps for a minute, went to get it--it was gone Ian had carried it off. I found it away out towards the next cabin below. Jenny drinks milk yet--take out her milk and call out, Jenny and she will run up and drop on her knees and drink. If the dogs are gone where she don't know where they are, she makes a great fuss. I have between forty and fifty chickens. There has been quite a number of deaths at Bartletts S. since you left. I have heard of seven or eight, at least. Two was carried out by here, in about a week. Ashfield sold the Spanish ranch to a man by the name of Harland--he has stocked it with goats--it was him that sent us the goats meat. Your father went to Williams, nine miles this side of Colusa) for doors and windows and nails. He saved about thirty dollars by going, instead of sending by stage for them. Mr Williams went out yesterday and killed a large deer--he could not pack it home--he and your father took Betsey and started at daylight this morning after it. Mr W. has just come with the deer.

I wish I could send venison down there. Mr W gives us venison when he He sends the hams to Colu I saw

the notice of the d . . . Frank W. Bassett, the other
the Call.--was that your cousin Frank? Since I com
this letter a week ago I have . . . een chickens hatched--
they . . . I think I have written enough . . . time. I send
the seeds to your . . . I promised to. Your father
tired and footsore, but no . . . I hope you will write ofte
not wait for me.

Love to all from

Grand

I would sent the seeds . . . but could find them

N.B. Grandma will write some in n letter
GSH

Hough Springs Jun 19

Dear Mother

I promised to write as soon as I got up here but have been very busy cutting hay. I have not been to Lakeport yet to see about appraising things. Peter has got the place now, & we will have to move away soon as we can that is the reason I did not feel like writing.

We had a big house full of people here last night.

We have 4 cabins Occupied with families, There is an artist here that inlarges pictures, he will stop here about a week Mr Pinkham came up here a day or two after I did, Henry has gone away,

Yesterday was the coldest day we have had since last winter. I have not had time to see about getting Shreves Bartlett water yet but will in a day or two. There is not anything of any consequence to Administer upon up here as things stand now.

June 20 I commenced to write last night but did not get done. I have been up to Bartlett today & got Shreves three 10 gallon cags to get water in. I must close for tonight by wishing you all good night.

Yours Affectionately
Geo. S. Hough.

Direct Letters to Bartlett Springs
Lake Co. Cal.

Hough Springs 22.77

Dear Mother.

I received your letter today, and was very glad to hear from you. We are all well, and hope these few lines will find you the same, I am glad Frank keeps on writing. We killed a calf, and made some mince pies I look cloudy here, but does not rain much. It is not much work to get the cows. when I went after them this morning, the three dogs went and the sheep and young "Betsie" There are ducks in the creek. I have shot twice at them the first time I killed one and the second time I killed three. I have got a fine blot on this paper. I have not been any place since I have been here, only a-hunting once and awhile.

My clothes does not hold out very well. I see in the paper that Marcus Shuey was married, what was Franks premium for getting up the club for the "Home". we have got between 80 and 90 chickens and have not got using egg since I have been up here we feed them plenty. The grass is growing nicely our grain is just up.

I must write to F. tonight for I did not write to him before. good night, write very soon. yours aff.

George S. Hough

N.B. Thanksgiving passed and we did not know it, was them two married you spoke of in your letter,

G.S.H.

P.S. excuse mistakes and blunders and bad spelling. &et.

G.S.H.

W.H. LOOMIS, M.D.,

Homoeopathic Physician and Surgeon,

Office, 173 Hunter Street, near Weber Avenue.

OFFICE HOURS,
8 to 9 A.M.
1 to 3 (P.M.
7 to 8)

Alameda, Cal, July 26th 1877

Mrs. Hough

I take the liberty of writing to you through the advise of Dr. Bishop, he says you are troubled with obstruction of the Lachramal duct, and have been for some time, if so it is high time you used some well directed remedies to overcome it, if not too late to prevent a surgical opperation. My wife has had to pass through the same, but now is well. If you should wish to consult a Physician and receive treatment I would be pleased to serve you. By letter if you would give me all the symptoms and history of the case and if that did not do, you could come in and see me. I can promise to do you all the good that medicine can do. It is a disease that if run too long it will spoil your face. If you write for treatment give me in full all your troubles & disorders of the system, Habits &c. and treatment if you have had any. Yours &c

W.H. Loomis M.D.

Alameda Cal.

Hough Springs Aug 20 "1877

Dear Wife

I recvd: your letter day before yesterday and was very glad to get it and to hear you were all well I am getting along after the same old sort with nothing new or startling, have not killed any deer nor caught any fish Have got all the cabins full and am building another cabin If any parties come to you to inquire about renting the rancho after this I wish you would tell them I shal require a strong bond for the redelivery of the rancho to me at the expiration of the lease if Mrs Fitzgerald wants any more fence built she will have to build it--I shant "so now"

I think I will be down the latter part of Sept I am going to write to those lawyers soon as I finish this. Tell Geo his and lamb are getting al nicely Give my love to the children and write soon as you can

Ever yours in haste

Orlando

Hough,s Springs Nov 5th1877

Dear Wife, We arrived at the Springs on wensday eve--in good shape with good luck through the trip "owing to starting on the sabbath I suppose" as we found two dogs instead of los-
ing any I was taken sick the next day (Thursday) and have been verry sick and am far from well yet. I should have sent you a telegraph dispatch if I had not felt better by friday and if I do not get better than I am at present I shal come home soon. I cannot explain my sickness as I am sick all over from head to foot with some feaver, am verry weak and reduced in flesh. I think perhaps I have written rather too much a-
bout myself but the others are so well they do not need writ-
ing about It has been raining steadily here sinse thursday with prospects of a continuance--the weather is mild and warm. I can think of nothing new to write I have spoken to Jones to cut that wood as he starts for Lafayette in the morning and I intend to send this by him. Write soon and oblige

ever Yours

Orlando

Lafayette, Nov. 11th. 1877

Dear Brother George.

I thought I would try and write a few lines to you. We are all well at the present and I hope these few lines will find you all the same. John McNeil died last tuesday evening with the dyphtheria and was burried last wednesday at five o'clock P.M.

Mr. Stanage sent for Johnies uncle and he got here yesterday. David Stanage and Willie and I got our old wagon up on the hill a little ways and then took off the break and the wagon got to going very fast and it started to run in the hen house and I put on the break and it slid the wheels but it run into the hen house and broke three pickets. Allen Jones is cutting wood here now he got here last thursday. it has been raining a little today it rained some last night. how do you like it up there does it rain much. the pupies are getting along very well the biggest one of the pupies caught Mrs. Allens pupie by the ear and very near bit a hole in it. I killed that lamb that I got of Willie the same day that you went away, and the other lamb died the other day it was so tame that it would eat out of my hand. Jones is a shaving himself he has got hin self a new pair of boots and a new pair of overalls and an ove shirt. I am getting up a club for the home companion the editors has made it larger the monthly home is 35 cents a year and the semimonthly is 60 cents a year. there is only about twenty scholars that goes to School now. the class that I am in are way over in frac-

tions in the arithmetic. I have not killed any squirrels since you went up to the springs. Ragsdail children are stopping to William Bradleys. it is a raining now. I am a-going to have a garden this year. I have dug up some land so as to have a larger garden. I think Willie is agoing to have a garden this year. the hens eat all of his seeds up they were in his box and he had a honey frame and the pupies eat all of the honey off of it.

it is getting so dark that I must close bidding you good by.

Yours truly

Frank Hough

Hough Springs Nov 17/1877

Dear Mother.

I thought I would write a few lines to you. we are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you the same. I recieved Frank's letter yesterday, I was very glad to hear from him. I was very sorry to hear of the death of Johny McNeil, it came very unexpected. How long was he sick? was there many at his funeral? How did he come to get the dyptheria? we are plowing now. I have neglected to write on account of having no stamps but I thought I would write anyway.

"November 18" I have not caught any foxes yet, but I caught my dog one night. we gave "lew" away this morning. we milk three cows. my lamb is fat and wooly. if I had a pair of sheep Shears I would shear her. A man stayed here last night he has stayed here twice before. we have got "two" calves. It rained here quite hard. "2" stages runs now. there are lots of "mansaneta" berries this year. write all the news. I must write to Frank now, so as to go to bed for I will have to get up early. "write soon", yours affectionately

George S. Hough

"paper is scarce up here"

COLONIAL HOME
LAFAYETTE

Lafayette--Nov. 11, 1877

Dear Brother George,

I thought I would try and write a few lines to you in answer to the letter I received a few day's ago but I dont know whether I can or not for the pen is not worth the money we paid for it. We are all well at present and I hope these few lines will find you the same. Willie arm is better today. I have got a sack and a $\frac{1}{2}$ of dried walnuts, and Willie has got two sacks--tomorrow is thanksgiving and there will not be any school. The Home has been enlarged it is a good deal larger than it Has been and it is called The Home Companion I will send you a copy of it the monthly home is 35 cts. do those wads that you cut fit the gun? I seen three hare the other day and gip chaced one of them but I did not have the dog when I saw the other too. Mama is making mince pies for thankgiving. I must close and bid you g. by

N.B. Frank Hough

this letter lookis like an Elephant had stepped on every letter as I made it in some places it looks like an elephant had been rolling.

Frank

Lafayette, Nov. 27/177

Dear George,

I received your letter last week, was very glad indeed to hear from you.

We are all well as usual. No one but Johnny McNeil has had the diphteria in this neighborhood. I do not know the causus of his having the disease, unless it was his system was out of order, and he took a bad cold and it settled in his throat. I did not go up to see him while he was sick. they had a good doctor from Walnut Creek and W. Brown went after Dr. Coleman neither of the doctors could do him any good.

The weather is beautiful, everybody seems to be improving it puting in their crops.

Ask your Father if he wants me to get someone to plow our ground here, the ground is just about wet enough to plow good. Jones was intending to plow it--if he had not got a job just as he did. George, do you want to sell your young chickens? if so write and tell me what you will sell them for. Yours and some of mine go over in Shreves lot, and he is putting out poisoned grain, and I want to dispose of them kill some and sell some of them I wish we could have the ground plowed here and some wheat sowed, so that we can have feed for our chickens without buying it.

Mr Stanage is holding a singing school. Frank has gone this evening.

Willie got very badly bitten) tonight by Mr Thompson's dog) on his arm. I put a poultice on it I presume it will get along all right. They have been holding meetings several weeks at

Walnut Creek but they do not get any converts. Last Sunday we went over to Pacheco to Mr Hortons meeting. Dr Bishop's brother preached from San Francisco they all know some of my friends in Gowanda. Mr Stanage & Mr Thompson went to the meeting we all took dinner to Mr Olivers, he keeps the drug store their. I had a very pleasant time I can't think of any thing more to write this time. You must take good care of yourself & write as often as you can. Has your Father got well? Do you like it up there as well as you expected to. Frank is getting up a club for the Home.

Yours affectionately
Your Mother

Hough Springs December 3. 1877

Dear Mother.

I recieved your letter today and very glad to hear from you. We are all well as usual and hope these few lines will find you the same. Papa went after a load of lumber.

He says to get Mr Stanage to plow the Orchard. The stage drivers wife is stopping here.

"Dec. 4" - I commenced writing last night. we have got our crop in. I don't know about them chickens you spoke about. I would kill them and eat them if I was there. rather than to have Mr Shreeve poison them. Papa went after lumber today, we are milking three cows now. they go off to go after them. it is very cold in morning. this morning I went half-way to allen's after them. I went up when papa went after lumber and walked back and I made them cows come back about as fast as their legs would take them. I'm up in the morning now. I like it well enough (only in the mornings it is not very pleasant) papa has not killed any deer since I have been here, my sheep and dog had a fight today "Jennie" would butt "Fan" and fan would growl and bite Jennie, her and the dog likes barley every morning when I go to feed the horses she will run and blat. how much does Mr Stanage ask for going to the singing school? tell Frank I will answer his letter next time Peter goes after lumber with Papa. Can Carrie play her music, tell her to play me a tune and send it bottle. Papa got your letter awhile ago. he has got well now. Is Frank getting many subscriber for the Home I can get the St.

Nicolas for \$2.50 by sending to the Gazette Office. I think I will take it a year. tell Frank the wads I cut fitted the gun. Write often as you can. I must get to bed some time to-night. good night. I made a great many mistakes for I was in a hurry to get done. I hope you will not write as short letters as I do. Yours.

George S. Hough

P.S. Peter got a letter from Jones the other day.

G.S.H.

Lafayette Dec. 16th. 1877

Dear Brother George

I thought I Would try and write a few lines to you, Mama received your letter last Monday. We are all well at the present and hope these few lines will find you the same. A week ago last tuesday there was a singing school and Byron Hastings and a city chap, Byron Hastings knocked on the window and stuck up some p and he stole a mans saddle and hid it down in the brush by Mr Maddens and the man came to Mr. Hastings and got Byron and made him find the saddle and the other knight Byron Hastings came in to Mr. Allens and got Genea Berg and when he got out to the gait there was two other boys their names were Sink Sherman and Charley Sherman and Genea Burg whipped that Sink Sherman and made him give up it is not settled yet friday night Byron Hastings came for Gennea Burg and Mrs Allen said something to him and the other boys heard her and ran and hid. Genea Burg went there but did not see any one of the boys. When is Papa coming down home do you know if you do I wish you would tell me. Write soon. from

Frank H.

Lafayette, Dec. 16, 1877.

Dear George

I received your letter last monday, was very glad you answered my letter so soon. You must have it very rough getting up the cows.--don't expose yourself too much.

We are all quite well.

School is not out yet. I presume it will close when it rains hard. I shall be very glad to see the rain come even if it should cause the school to close.

It looks very cloudy today like it might rain soon. Two weeks ago today, down to the church, after Mr Priddy had preached and dismissed the congregation, there was a couple went forward from the back part of church, to be married they were both very young, and strangers to all present; they both gave their names as Brown.

I have been to church today Mr Priddy expelled two of the members that united with the Church when you was here-- John Melone & Barny Hastings for immorral conduct. How much better it is for folks to behave themselves and do right.

The Bible says, "Even a child is known by its doings, whether it be good, or whether it be evil". George let "your doings" be good, and you will be rewarded, by being respected and trusted here, and a home in Heaven when you die. You must do right because it is right, even if you do not gain much. stick to that which you know is right, and will lead you right, and you will come out all right in the end. A very wise man said "He had rather be right, than a President" To have an ap-

proving conscience and an approving God is worth more than all the wealth of a thousand worlds like this.

It is a good thing to be rich if any body gets their honestly, and makes good use of it.

I had a thanksgiving present of some nice butter, it come unexpectedly I had been trying to get it in several places but failed to do so.

Shuey brings it to us now at 65cts a sole.

Frank has sent six subscribers for the Home.

I think it would be a good idea for you to take the St Nickolas, it is a moral and very interesting book.

Mrs. Ghoram is married to Mr Hutchison, the old gentleman you have seen to church with her How does your clothes hold out.

Write as often as you can. We all send our love Good bye.

Mama